IN THE CLAIMS:

1-51 (Canceled).

52. (New) An isolated double stranded short interfering ribonucleic acid (siRNA) having the property of at least repressing expression of STAT6 nucleic acid or protein in vitro and having a sense strand comprising a contiguous nucleotide sequence and an antisense strand comprising a complementary contiguous nucleotide sequence, each of the antisense strand and the sense strand having a length in the range of 10 to 30 nucleotides.

53. (New) An siRNA according to claim 52, wherein the sense strand comprises a contiguous nucleotide sequence, wherein the base sequence has at least 70% sequence identity to the base sequence of a contiguous nucleotide sequence of corresponding length which is contained in the mRNA sequence encoded by one of the human, mouse or rat STATS nucleotide sequences (SEQ ID Nos 10, 12 or 14).

54. (New) An siRNA according to claim 53, wherein the contiguous nucleotide sequence of corresponding length contained in the mRNA sequence is the RNA sequence of any one of SEQ ID Nos 5-8 or the RNA sequence encoded by any one of SEQ ID Nos I5-18.

55. (New) An siRNA according to claim 52, wherein the antisense strand comprises a contiguous nucleotide sequence, wherein the base sequence has at least 70% sequence complementarity to the base sequence of a contiguous nucleotide sequence of corresponding length which is contained in one of the RNA sequences encoded by the human, mouse or rat STAT6 nucleotide sequences

(SEQ ID Nos 10, 12 or 14).

56. (New) An siRNA according to claim 55, wherein the contiguous nucleotide sequence of corresponding length contained in the RNA sequence is encoded by any one of SEQ ID Nos 15-18.

57. (New) An siRNA according to claim 53, wherein said percentage of sequence identity or complementarity is at least 90.

58. (New) An siRNA according to claim 56, wherein said percentage of sequence identity or complementarity is at least 90.

59. (New) An siRNA according to claim 52, wherein the sense and antisense strands are of the same length.

60. (New) An siRNA according to claim 52, wherein each said strand has a length of 19, 20, 21 or 22 nucleotides.

61. (New) An siRNA according to claim 52, wherein the antisense strand hybridises to the mRNA encoded by one of SEQ ID Nos 10, 12 or 14 under at least high stringency conditions.

62. (New) An siRNA according to claim 52, wherein each said strand has a sequence identity of at least 70% to the corresponding strand of any one of SEQ ID Nos 1 to 4.

63. (New) An siRNA according to claim 52, wherein at least one of the sense strand and the antisense strand has at least 70% sequence

complementarity over the entire length of said siRNA to a portion or fragment of an RNA sequence coding for a STAT6 protein.

64. (New) An siRNA according to claim 63, wherein the portion or fragment is selected from the group consisting of a STAT6 mRNA and the RNA or mRNA encoded by one of SEQ ID Nos 10, 12 or 14.

65. (New) An siRNA selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID No.1, SEQ ID No.2, SEQ ID No. 3 and SEQ ID No.4.

66. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an siRNA as claimed in claim 1, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, carrier or adjuvant therefor.

67. (New) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 66, which is formulated for oral or nasal administration.

68. (New) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 66, wherein said carrier is a lipophilic carrier or vesicle.

69. (New) A method of treating an allergic disease in a patient in need of such treatment, which comprises administering to the patient an siRNA as claimed in claim 52.

70. (New) A method of treating an allergic disease in a patient in need of such treatment, which comprises administration to the patient of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 66.

71. (New) A method according to claim 70, in which the administration is oral, inhalational or nasal.

72. (New) A method of treating a disease in a patient in need of such treatment, which comprises administering to the patient an siRNA according to claim 52 or a pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 66, wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of asthma, non-atopic asthma and rhinitis.

73. (New) A method for repressing the cellular expression of STAT6 mRNA or protein, which method comprises contacting a cell with an siRNA as claimed in claim 52.

74. (New) A method according to claim 73, wherein said cell is a mammalian cell.

75. (New) A method according to claim 73, wherein said cell is a human cell.

76. (New) A method according to claim 73, wherein said cell is from the respiratory tract or is the progeny of a cell from the respiratory tract.

77. (New) A cell in which STAT6 protein or nucleic acid expression is at least repressed.

78. (New) A mammalian cell according to claim 77, which contains an siRNA as claimed in claim 52.